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FRANK A. HILL. 1841-1903

HON. FRANK ALPINE HILL, secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Education, died in Brookline, Mass., on September 12, 1903, at the age of sixty-two.

He was born in Biddeford, Me., was educated in the schools of his native town and at Bowdoin College, and graduated from Bowdoin with the degree of A.B. at the age of twenty. In 1894 Bowdoin conferred on him the degree of Litt.D. He was always an apt pupil, and, besides paying his own college expenses by teaching in the long vacations, he had time to participate actively in the various literary, scientific, and athletic organizations of his college. He was elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and delivered an oration on Commencement day.

After graduation, he was for a brief period principal of the Limington (Me.) Academy, but soon left this post to become principal of the Biddeford High School, where he remained for three years. In 1864-65 he studied law, but turned again to teaching.

He was successively and without interruption principal of the Milford (Mass.) High School (five years); principal of the Chelsea (Mass.) High School (sixteen years); headmaster of the Cambridge (Mass.) English High School, where, also, he was associated with others in the development of the Rindge Manual Training High School (five years); headmaster of the Boston



HON. FRANK ALPINE HILL.

Mechanic Arts High School (one year); secretary of the State Board of Education (from May, 1894) until the time of his death.

In all these important posts Dr. Hill showed admirable personal qualities and rare ability as a teacher and executive officer. Every school over which he presided felt the influence of his genial personality, his industry and conscientious devotion to duty, and his high ideals of scholarship; and was carried on in the spirit of helpful co-operation between pupils and teachers. During this period he found time to do some work on school-books, particularly in editing the revised Holmes series of readers, and in helping to render John Fiske's *Civil Government* and *United States History* available for use in schools.

As secretary of the Board of Education he exhibited the same sterling qualities as a man and as an educational officer that marked his earlier career. His annual reports are not only useful and interesting to residents of Massachusetts, but are among the more important contributions to contemporary educational literature. He was a strong influence in securing important school legislation, notably the provisions making admission to the state normal schools dependent on graduation from a good high school or its equivalent; the provisions requiring every town in the state to employ a superintendent of schools, either alone or together with another town or other towns; the laws that bring a high-school education within the reach of every child in the state; and those establishing a scheme for the state examination and certification of teachers. He was a careful, but also a progressive, man, and when convinced of the wisdom of some policy he had conceived, or which had been intrusted to him, he moved quietly but steadily toward its consummation.

Dr. Hill was in constant demand as a public speaker, especially at educational gatherings of all kinds. His public utterances were marked by enthusiasm and sanity. Among his published addresses some have been called for in large numbers from all parts of the country, especially one entitled "How Far is the Public High School a Just Charge on the Public Treasury?" This address has been sent for by the hundred, and

justly, both because it is a good statement of the full significance of the public high school in American life, and also because it is one of the best expositions that the country has produced of the principles on which our public-school system is based.

Dr. Hill held many educational offices during his career in Massachusetts, and also many offices in private life. He was *ex officio* one of the two commissioners of the state school fund (the treasurer of the commonwealth is the other), a trustee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and a trustee of the State Agricultural College. He was a member of the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both *ex officio* and by election. He was appointed a member of the Schools Examination Board of Harvard University when that board was active in 1892-95. He had been president of a number of teachers' associations and clubs, among them the Massachusetts Schoolmasters' Club, over which he presided for two years. He had also been president of the Cambridge Club—an organization of one hundred and fifty of the leading citizens of Cambridge, founded to "promote literary and social culture among its members, and especially to consider and discuss questions relating to the welfare of the city of Cambridge." When he was stricken by his last illness, he was chairman of the Committee of Eleven on the Organization of Contemporary Educational Experience appointed by the Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association in 1901, but this office his failing health obliged him to resign, much to the regret of his associates on the committee.

Dr. Hill's life was full of activity. Tireless industry and devotion to duty were prominent characteristics of his nature, and marked his private life no less than his public career. He was a good private citizen, an efficient and a very successful teacher and school officer, and he was loved and valued as a friend.

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